

Limited, Hongkong for the undelivered supply of ammunition contracted with FDSP for an amount of US\$ 6.12 million. It is presumed that this Question relates to this supply.

While part of the ammunition supplied was accepted, Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon intimated in September 1993 that the 130mm Illuminating ammunition was received without technical literature and range tables which delayed the checkproof. The checkproof was conducted by Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) in August 1995 on receipt of fuse setting key and range tables from the firm. Ten rounds were fired of which three recorded failures. DGQA subjected the consignment to reproof by firing 13 rounds in December 1995 out of which 12 recorded failure. Thus total 15 failures were recorded out of 23 rounds fired. In view of the unsatisfactory performance of the ammunition during checkproof, the consignment was categorized as not fit for use by DGQA in January 1996. Quality claim was raised against the firm in January 1996. Efforts made to recover the amount paid to the firm were not successful.

The transaction was considered by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C and AG) in its reprot No. 7 of 1999 (Defence Services) who *inter alia* recommended that the matter should be investigated through an independent agency to fix responsibility. Accordingly, the case was referred to CBI on 20.4.2000 for independent investigation.

Arms Dropped by Pakistan

†2494. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan army has dropped arms in Indian territory in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether it is also a fact that the failure of Government and intelligence agencies has come to light in this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Although Pak agencies' involvement in attempts to push in arms and ammunitions in the Indian territory with the objective of upgrading the level of proxy war in J and K is well-known, there are no reports suggesting that Pakistan has dropped arms in the Indian territory.

Life Insurance Scheme for Army Personnel

2495. **SHRI R. K. ANAND:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no Insurance protection for the army personnel involved in internal security duties similar to the insurance protection provided to the civilian security/police agencies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): All Army personnel are covered by the Army Group Insurance (AGI). The AGI scheme provides insurance cover for death (including suicide) in peace time, on internal security duties, in war-like situations and in actual combat. The AGI makes payments to the tune of Rs. 8.0 lakh as insurance amount to the next-of kin (NOK) of deceased officers and Rs. 3.75 lakhs to the NOK of JCOs and other Ranks. The maturity benefits under the scheme are also paid depending on the length of service/contribution made. The Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs)/Central Police Organizations (CPOs) are covered under the Central Government Employees Insurance Scheme and the insured amount varies from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 1,20,000/- depending on whether the employee belongs to Group 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D'. In case of Assam Rifles, there is a separate scheme called Assam Rifles Group Insurance Scheme.